

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 7-9, 11-19 are present in this application. Claims 1, 5, 9, and 13-16 are independent. In this response, no claims have been canceled, added, or amended. Claims 5, 7-9, 11-12, 14, and 16 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 13, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Uchida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,930,661) in view of Trovato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,445,306) and in further view of Hakamada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,870,492). Claims 1 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Miura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,996,837) in view of Trovato). Claims 13, 15, and 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Miura and Trovato (as applied to claim 1 above), and in further view of Hakamada). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Argument: Features of claim 1, 13, and 15 not disclosed by cited prior art

Independent claims 1, 13, and 15 of the present application each recite the following features (a) to (c):

- (a) The wireless center generates channel identification information and transmits it to the AV output device.
- (b) The AV output device stores the channel identification information received from the wireless center.
- (c) The AV output device generates, in response to an up-down input operation from a user, a direct command corresponding to the up-down input operation on the basis of the channel identification information stored in advance, and transmits the direct command to the wireless center.

These features (a) to (c) achieve at least the Advantage (A): "at the wireless center unit 3, there is no need of decoding and converting the up-down channel selection command to a direct channel selection command. This shortens a delay time involved in the interval time for exchanging commands, thereby improving a response to the user's input for up-down channel selection." (See specification, page 30, lines 13-19.)

The Examiner takes the position that it would have been allegedly obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to transmit channel identification information from the base device to the display device and store it in the memory 132-134. (See Office Action, page 7, lines 2-6.) Further, the Examiner takes the position that transmitting the channel identification information from the base device to the display device is allegedly disclosed in column 1 of Miura. (See Office Action, page 14, lines 4-7.)

Features (a) to (c) are, however, disclosed in none of the cited references as discussed below, and would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Uchida discloses a bi-directional communication system. The bi-directional communication system, if a user touches the touch panel 121 of the display device 100, detects the touched position on the touch panel 121, and determines the operation key displayed on the control panel CP at the touched position. The bi-directional communication system thus forms an operation signal corresponding to the operation key, and wirelessly transmits the operation signal to the base apparatus 200 (see column 5, lines 16-23). Uchida further discloses the operation keys on the control panel CP including a channel up/down key (see Fig. 1, for example).

In Uchida, however, operating the channel up/down key starts an operation as in the conventional art disclosed in the specification of the present application; specifically, it merely generates an operation signal indicative of the content of the operation of the up/down key, and transmits the operation signal to the base device. More specifically, in Uchida, when the channel up/down key is operated at the display device, an operation signal indicative of the content of the operation is generated at the display device and transmitted to the base device. The base device analyzes the operation signal, and a command for performing an operation corresponding to the operation signal is generated. This arrangement is clearly understood from, for example, the description in column 9, lines 5 to 11, "The operation signal transmitted by radio from the display device 100 in this manner is received by the base apparatus 200. In the present example, the base apparatus 200 then forms a remote control signal for the set-top box 300 in response to the operation signal from the display apparatus 100 and transmits the remote control signal so that the set-top box 300 may be remotely controlled."

Further, Uchida is utterly silent about the object that the present invention achieves, that is, to “shorten a delay time involved in the interval time for exchanging commands (between the base device and the display device), thereby improving a response to the user’s input for up-down channel selection.” Uchida also fails to suggest modifying its arrangement so that the channel identification information is transmitted from the base device to the display device to be stored in the memory 132-134.

As discussed above, Uchida neither teaches nor suggests the above features (a) to (c), and there is no motivation for modifying its arrangement so that the channel identification information is transmitted from the base device to the display device to be stored in the memory 132-134.

Both Trovato and Hakamada are utterly silent about the arrangement including (i) a wireless center having a tuner section and (ii) an AV output device having a channel selection input section. Thus, neither of Trovato and Hakamada describes an arrangement in which commands are exchanged between the wireless center and the AV output device.

Both Trovato and Hakamada are also utterly silent about the object that the present invention achieves, that is, to “shorten a delay time involved in the interval time for exchanging commands (between the wireless center and the AV output device), thereby improving a response to the user’s input for up-down channel selection.” Further, neither of Trovato and Hakamada teaches or suggests features (a) to (c).

Therefore, neither of Trovato and Hakamada provides motivation for modifying Uchida to achieve features (a) to (c).

In Miura, when the sub remote controller 2A of the slave terminal 2 has selected a TV channel, a remote control signal supplied from the sub remote controller 2A is modulated and amplified, and is transmitted to the master terminal 1 (see column 8, line 65 through column 9, line 5).

More specifically, in Miura, what is transmitted from the slave terminal 2 to the master terminal 1 in response to a channel selection operation is, as in the conventional art disclosed in the specification of the present application, merely an operation signal indicative of the content of the channel selection operation.

Further, Miura is utterly silent about whether the sub remote controller 2A includes an up/down key.

Miura is also utterly silent about the object that the present invention achieves, that is, to “shorten a delay time involved in the interval time for exchanging commands (between the slave terminal 2 and the master terminal 1), thereby improving a response to the user's input for up-down channel selection,” Miura thus neither teaches nor suggests features (a) to (c). There is thus no motivation for modifying Miura's technique to achieve features (a) to (c).

The Office Action finds on page 14, lines 4 to 7 that feature (a) is disclosed in column 1 of Miura. However, what is actually disclosed in Miura is, as discussed above, merely an arrangement in which, when the sub remote controller 2A of the slave terminal 2 has selected a TV channel, a remote control signal supplied from the sub remote controller 2A is modulated and amplified, and is transmitted from the slave terminal 2 (corresponding to the AV output device) to the master terminal 1 (corresponding to the wireless center). Miura is thus utterly silent about feature (a).

As is clear from the above discussion, the subject matter of claims 1, 13, and 15 of the present application includes unique features (a) to (c), which are neither taught nor suggested by any of Uchida, Trovato, Hakamada, and Miura, and thus achieves unique Advantage (A). The subject matter therefore would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art over the cited references.

Independent claims 1, 13, and 15 are submitted to be allowable over the cited prior art for at least the above reason(s).

Dependent claims are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regards to the independent claims at least based on their dependency on the independent claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 13, 15, and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 13, 15, and 17-19 are respectfully requested for at least the above reasons.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that the pending application be allowed.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Aslan Ettehadieh (Reg. No. 62,278) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

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Respectfully submitted,

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